

If agreeable, I will attend you for that purpose at 12 o'clock today, and would desire the attendance of the Sec. of State, if not of the other members of the Cabinet Council.

With the highest regard.

I will be ready, & send to the Sec'y of State.³

M. F.

To James Graham.

U.

Washington City,

Jan'y 6th, 1851.

Thus far, the session of Congress has been quiet, and there seems to be a general disposition to acquiesce in the settlement of the questions in relation to slavery, made at the last session. Seward and his faction, are disposed to apparent peace, and are secretly asking quarter, so far as to be allowed to retain the offices (not a few of them) which they acquired under the late administration. But I think we should not be content with that, although they are observing a cowardly silence, but should eject them, from place, and strip them of the influence of office. The President is ready for this, if he can overcome the importunities and counsels of some Northern Whigs. There is but little party feeling manifested as between old parties. Gen. Cass and his friends are lauding to the skies Webster's Austrian letter,⁴ and Foote,⁵ you will observe, in a late speech at Philadelphia, spoke of the President, and his advisers, in the kindest terms.

On the first of Jan'y the houses of the Heads of Departments were thrown open, after a short visit to the President, and among a great number who called, I had visits from Gen'l Cass, and many other prominent democrats, and from Ritchie and Blair.

³ In Fillmore's handwriting.

⁴ Commonly called the "Hulseman letter." Austria showed resentment, when, in some way, the Austrian minister secured a copy of President Taylor's instructions to A. Dudley Mann as to possible recognition of Hungary. Hulseman, the minister, addressed directly to the President an official remonstrance. Webster replied with a most emphatic "American" note. Hulseman again protested after Webster's speech at the Kossuth banquet.

⁵ Henry Stuart Foote (1804-1880), of Mississippi, a native of Virginia, who went to Mississippi in 1826, was United States Senator, 1847-1852, and Governor, 1852-1854. He moved to California, and, after being defeated for the United States Senate, returned to Mississippi. Later he moved to Tennessee, which he represented in the Confederate Congress, 1861-1865. He violently opposed the Davis administration, left his seat to leave the country, but failed in the attempt. Later, as a Republican, he was director of the New Orleans mint.